
Education Committee

HB 2506

Brief Description: Requiring adoption of the mathematics syllabus used by the Singapore ministry of education.

Sponsors: Representatives Anderson and Rodne.

Brief Summary of Bill

- By 2008-09, requires the Essential Academic Learning Requirements, Grade Level Expectations, and state assessment in mathematics to be based on the content, syllabus, sequence, and curriculum framework for mathematics that is used in Singapore.

Hearing Date: 2/15/06

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

In 2003, fourth and eighth grade students from Singapore ranked first in the world in mathematics scores on the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMMS). Scores for United States students, while above the international average, ranked 12th for fourth graders and 15th for eighth graders, out of 46 participating countries. Singapore students also ranked first in math on the TIMMS in 1995. Average math scores for U.S. students did not change between 1995 and 2003.

In 2005, the American Institutes for Research compared key features of the Singapore and U.S. mathematics systems in elementary grades in a report titled *"What the United States Can Learn From Singapore's World Class Mathematics System."* The study identified major differences in the mathematics frameworks, textbooks, assessments, and teacher preparation between the two countries.

Summary of Bill:

By 2008-09, the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) in mathematics must focus on mathematical problem solving. Through a planned and sequenced curriculum framework, students must learn basic mathematical concepts and knowledge needed for solving problems; develop and perform a range of manipulative skills; gain thinking and problem solving skills and apply them to mathematical problems; and develop confidence in using mathematics.

In developing the revised EALRs and GLEs, the Superintendent of Public Instruction must incorporate the content, syllabus, sequence, and curriculum framework implemented by the Ministry of Education in Singapore. Also by 2008-09, the statewide assessment system must be designed to assess student mastery of the revised EALRs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.